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SPEECH OF HON. WILLIAM BIGLER, IN DEFENCE OF GEN. BOWMAN, DELIVERED IN THE SENATE OF THE U. S., JANUARY 17th, 1860.

Now, sir, I want to say something about the nominee of the democratic party for the office of Public Printer, and I want to say it in all defence and kindness to others. I have known General Bowman for twenty years, and have been on terms of intimacy with him. I have maintained official relations with him, for he was Adjutant General by my appointment, when I had the honor of being Governor of the State of Pennsylvania; and I hazard nothing in saying that no man in the State has maintained a higher reputation for honesty and integrity. I never heard imputed to him anything like an unworthy motive or corrupt action. It suits some newspapers to ridicule him as a brigadier general; he never was a brigadier general at all. He commenced as a major general in 1842, under the commission of Governor Porter. In 1845 he was appointed adjutant general by Governor Shunk; and in 1847 he mustered the two regiments that Pennsylvania furnished for the Mexican war, into the service. He did that with great despatch and energy, to the entire satisfaction of the Governor and the War Department. A fact connected with that duty, goes somewhat to reflect the character of General Bowman; to show at least that he is not a mercenary man, seeking to pocket the public money. After the war, and when the legislature of Pennsylvania were complimenting the men and officers, and voting extra pay to others engaged in the service, a proposition was made to pay General Bowman \$1,000 extra for mustering these regiments into service, which he promptly arrested, saying when he took that office he knew what the salary was; that it was understood that he was to perform all the duties that might devolve upon him for that salary; and therefore, he could not allow his friends to ask additional pay for him.

Then, sir, at a later period, in 1853, when he was adjutant general by my own appointment, a certain military storekeeper in the State of Connecticut wrote to General Bowman, suggesting to him, that if he would make a draft on him for some of Colt's pistols instead of making it upon the ordnance department here for the quota to which Pennsylvania was entitled, he could be handsomely rewarded, intimating to him that eight or ten thousand dollars could be realized in that way. What did General Bowman do? Like an honest man he sent the correspondence to President Pierce. The case was referred to the War Department, then under the able control of the senator from Mississippi, [Mr. Davis] proceedings were instituted; a court-martial had; General Bowman appeared and testified against this man; and he was broken of his commission and turned out of the service.

So he stood when this question of the appointment of a Superintendent of Public Printing came up, having for a quarter of a century published a newspaper at Bedford, and maintained a high reputation as a citizen. It is true that some politicians thought him excitable and violent, and somewhat unreasonable; but nobody ever doubted his honesty. He was no applicant for the office of Superintendent, as I happen to know; but the President of the United States having unfavorable impressions as to the management of that department under the predecessor of Gen. Bowman, determined not to retain him longer; and casting about for a man who had his unlimited confidence, invited Gen. Bowman to take the office. He came here not in the capacity of an office-seeker, but because he was invited.

Now, sir, as to his career as Superintendent of the Public Printing, I appeal to the Committee on Printing, who were most intimately associated with him, what was the result of their observation? Whether he did not show every disposition to guard the treasury? I beg leave to allude to some changes which have been made in that service, some of which were suggested by him; others promoted by him after suggestions from other quarters; and all of which received his cordial and active support; and by which, permit me to say, he has manifestly drawn upon himself a great deal of outside hostility. First, he arrested the practice of double composition, which had prevailed previously. It is now prevented by law. The recommendation is contained in the report of 1858, as are the reasons for it. This will save some twenty-five thousand dollars per annum, and which entered into the large profits to which the senator from Mississippi refers.—Then, again, by awarding contracts for paper to the lowest bidder; making his advertisement so as to furnish the samples himself, and not take samples furnished by the paper makers; and making contracts absolutely to the lowest bidder, is another of his reforms. This saves some twenty thousand dollars a year. The practice of furnishing members of Congress with bound duplicate volumes has also been arrested, which cost some thirty-seven thousand dollars a year. Omitting maps, charts, and useless statistics, has saved in all \$40,000 a year. Then there is a deduction of one clerk in the office, which was exclusively under his control, \$1,800.—

The total annual saving in this way is \$124,000. Nor is this all. The engraving and lithographic printing has cost annually, since 1852, an aggregate of about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars. According to the report of the committee of the House of Representatives at the last session, appointed to investigate the conduct of the predecessor of Gen. Bowman, one half of this is hereafter to be saved. The committee say:

"By a comparison of prices paid by General Bowman for engraving and lithographic printing with those paid by his predecessor, there is nearly fifty per cent. difference in favor of the prices paid by the latter."

Another instance: The charts for the Coast Survey report for 1857, executed under the superintendence of the predecessor of Gen. Bowman, cost \$157 50 each; whereas the same kind of charts, of even larger size, were contracted for and furnished under the superintendence of Gen. Bowman at \$47 90 each—being less than one third the price previously paid, and being a saving on that report alone of at least \$30,000 per annum. These are some facts connected with the career of this gentleman as Superintendent of Public Printing.

Now, sir, why shall he not be elected Printer to the Senate? It is alleged that in a transaction with Mr. Wendell, in which he became the owner of the newspaper formerly known as the *Union*, now the *Constitution*, he has so far sunk his political and moral status that he should not be endorsed by the Senate; that he has been guilty of such improprieties, if not of criminal acts, that he ought to be discarded and rebuked. Now, sir, I know that no honorable senator, if convinced that Mr. Bowman has been guilty of a violation of law, will vote for him. There may be a difference of opinion on this subject, and I suggest to my friend from Mississippi that he must have respect for the opinions and feelings of his fellow-senators who differ with him on these points, and who stand here determined to vote for him, because they believe he will make a faithful officer, and because they desire to vindicate him against allegations which they think unjust and ungenerous.

I prefer, because it is better that this whole subject be developed and disposed of, to introduce this branch of the subject by a letter written by the Attorney General to a gentleman in the State of Tennessee, explaining the facts and circumstances connected with the transfer of the newspaper to Gen. Bowman.

The Clerk read the following letter:

WASHINGTON, JUNE 8, 1859.
DEAR SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 31st, I have to say that I do not know what charges were made or reflected by the States concerning the transfer of the *Constitution* printing office to its present proprietor; but I have some knowledge of the terms and conditions of the contract referred to. When that establishment was first offered to General Bowman he rejected it. The proposal was afterwards renewed, again and again, until it came in a form which was acceptable. His first refusal and his final consent to the terms of Mr. Wendell, were given after consultation with me, and agreeably to my opinion. I gave him advice in the other character than that of his personal friend; and he accepted my counsel solely because he knew I would do all I could to guard him against loss, either in money or reputation. I had no official connection with the business. No authority was given me to bind the Government, and I was not expected or asked to do so, neither the President nor any head of a Department, or other public officer, gave anything or promised, directly or indirectly, that anything should be given in the future, for the benefit of either party. Some work from the Government may have been contracted upon, but only as private patronage was expected; that is, it would be got if it was the interest of the Government and the pleasure of the officers to give it; but not otherwise. No belief was expressed, and none, I am confident, was entertained, that this administration would suffer the Treasury to lose one cent for the sake of sustaining a favorite man, or promoting the prosperity of a favorite newspaper. All concerned knew the folly of supposing that public work would be sent to one who could not do it as cheaply or as well as it could be done by anybody else.

In about six days the transfer of a printing office was as purely a private affair as the sale of any plantation in the world to do with it; and the public treasury is not affected by it to the amount of a copper. The seller voluntarily parted with his own property for a consideration which the buyer was willing to give, and I do not suppose that either you or your constituents care a straw which party got the best of the bargain.

I ought to add that the President and all the members of the cabinet, except myself, were ignorant of this contract at the time it was made. I was consulted about it, as I would probably have been consulted about any other matter of equal importance to the private interests of General Bowman. I gave him my aid with alacrity and cheerfulness; for I have long known him as a most upright and worthy as well as energetic and fearless man; of unspotted integrity, and faithful in his duties in all the relations of life. To charge him with a corrupt scheme for plundering the public is so absurd that it can only be made more ridiculous by averring that Mr. Bowman was joined in it.

You may use this letter as far as you think it necessary or useful, in your vindication of the democratic party.
Yours, most truly,
Hon. CHARLES REEVE. J. S. BLACK.

man had, in truth, no connection with it whatever; but because, in an agreement between him and Mr. Wendell, it is specified that Mr. Wendell is to pay him certain sums periodically in the future, and because the public printing would seem to be the only visible means of making such payment, therefore it is said he is interested in the public printing. Does the senator mean to contend seriously that that would be the construction of any judge or jury in the United States? Why, sir, let me for a moment illustrate the effect of such a conclusion. Suppose Gen. Bowman had sold to Mr. Wendell a farm, and he had agreed to pay, and said to him, "these are my means of payment, but if this printing be taken from me, I cannot pay you?" would that give Gen. Bowman an interest in the public printing in the sense of the law, and render him liable to its penalties? With all respect to the senator, such an allegation is simply preposterous. Suppose the honorable senator himself had sold Mr. Wendell a farm, and he had agreed to pay him at the times at which he drew his salary for printing, would that make him a partner, or give him an interest in the public printing? If the senator's construction be right, then I doubt not every banking establishment in this city was at times connected with the public printing, and because Mr. Wendell had agreed to make them certain payments out of the proceeds of the public printing, and had, perhaps, pledged payment in advance, as the best business men often do this; the manufacturers of paper might have been interested in the public printing because they had a promise from Mr. Wendell that he would pay them out of the public printing at the proper time.

Now, sir, the most that can with plausibility be alleged in this case would be a mere technical connection or interest, and I intend to show that the circumstances surrounding General Bowman, and under which he occupied this position, were certainly such as ought to relieve him from the charge of a manifest desire to do what was wrong. There was no moral turpitude in anything he did. The idea that he intended to hold that place for the purpose of superintending the work, in order that Mr. Wendell might get a larger price, is simply preposterous. It did not matter to him whether Mr. Wendell's profits were large or small. The sum he was to receive was not a per centage of profits. Whether Wendell made or lost, there was so much to be paid to him. Therefore he could not have that kind of interest which the law contemplates.

But, sir, the circumstances under which Mr. Bowman agreed to occupy that position I prefer to present to the Senate, because it is due to him. When he concluded to take the newspaper, (as I shall show by the communication of the Secretary of the Interior,) from a mere sensitiveness as to holding an office whilst publishing a partisan newspaper, he resigned it promptly; but not because the law would be violated; if he had held it to this day, the law would not have been violated; he would not have been amenable to the law to-day, because he has not and never had any interest in the public printing. That is my deliberate judgment. General Bowman promptly resigned the superintendency, but because the Secretary of the Interior discovered incoherence would arise in his Department, because the President was not prepared to select his successor, he induced Mr. Bowman, with the consent of the President, to withdraw his resignation until a successor could be appointed. Such was the advice of a Cabinet officer, a lawyer, a gentleman, and as honest a man in my judgment, as lives in any country. The most that could be said was that Gen. Bowman yielded to the judgment and advice of his superior; and, sir, I protest that a man who has lived a life of honesty as he has, whose every day walk and conversation are exemplary, shall not be stricken down and crushed to the earth without being fairly heard. Sir, he is a man of marked propriety. I venture to say, that through all this controversy, no man has heard him utter an impropriety. No man has heard him impugn the motives of any who differ with him—even a printer. I have heard him speak in kind terms even of the Senator from Mississippi. Now, sir, I will ask the Secretary to read the letter of the Secretary of the Interior:

The Secretary read it, as follows:
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, January 9, 1860.
DEAR SIR:—In reply to your inquiry regarding the circumstances of Gen. Bowman's resignation of the office of Superintendent of Printing, I feel it my duty to state such facts as have connected me with that transaction.

Some time in March, 1859, the President sent me to be filed in this Department the resignation of General G. W. Bowman, late Superintendent of the Public Printing. The exact date of the writing I do not now remember, but it was to take effect on the 11th day of April, 1859. On or before the day this resignation was to take effect, absolutely, I was advised that the contracts for the engraving of the mechanical portion of the Patent Office report had not been given out, and that inevitable delay would arise in the execution of the work, unless the business that time filed could be acted on. I wished to avoid this delay, if possible, and, as the President was not prepared at that time to designate a successor, I suggested to him the propriety and public necessity of General Bowman's withdrawing his original resignation, and fixing another day for it to take effect. General Bowman was sent for. He was advised that the exigencies of the service required him still to continue to discharge the duties of his office. It is due to General Bowman to say that he at first expressed reluctance to yield inasmuch as he did not wish to be the editor of a democratic paper while he held an office under the Administration. I myself, however, saw no incompatibility in his doing so, particularly as it was to be held only until a successor could be appointed and qualified. He yielded to my suggestion. I permitted him to withdraw his original unconditional resignation, and file the one now in this Department, a copy of which you may have seen.

The only object on my part was to secure a prompt performance of the public service; and I believe Gen. Bowman yielded to my suggestion only from a sense of public duty.
The responsibility of changing the day on which this resignation was to take effect was mine, and I am ready to assume it.
Yours, truly,
J. THOMPSON, Secretary.
Hon. WILLIAM BIGLER, United States Senate.

Mr. BIGLER. It will be seen that the Secretary makes reference to the main duties which General Bowman performed as Superintendent after he assumed the control of the newspaper, and it will appear that the contracts of which the Secretary speaks were all awarded to the lowest bidder; no discretion whatever was exercised; and it is equally true that after that date Gen. Bowman performed no duty which admitted of any corrupt practice that could in any way influence the amount which Mr. Wendell was to be paid as Public Printer. The whole testimony proves that he was peculiarly sensitive about holding an office and at the same time publishing a partisan paper.

Now, sir, I have very little disposition to pursue this subject further. I think I have shown that General Bowman is in no way criminated, that he is without blemish. He had no connection with the Public Printing whatever; no interest direct or indirect in it; and he stands here in such a position that the most scrupulous democrat can vote for him with propriety.

From the Boston Traveler. GOING ALOFT—A TRAGEDY.

Captain Basil Hall, in his miscellaneous writings, relates an incident on board of a British frigate, to illustrate the terrible cruelty inflicted upon seamen, in the name of discipline, during the early years of the present century. He describes a timid boy who was so cruelly lashed, because he was afraid to go aloft, that he became a maniac, and ever afterward appeared to act without fear, running like a monkey from mast-head to mast-head, and along the yards.

An old man-of-war's-man told the writer of this the same story many years ago, with a sequel, which Captain Hall has not given. The sailor's story was in substance as follows:

A timid boy, about fourteen years of age, hesitated to go aloft, but, by the Captain's orders, was forcibly put in the main rigging, and then a boatswain's mate was ordered to lash him like a dog until he learned to run aloft, he prayed the inhuman Captain for God's sake to have mercy on him, but all in vain.—The boatswain's mate was commanded to lay on harder and harder, regardless of the boy's piercing screams, which made even veteran seamen turn from the brutal scene with disgust. His clothes were rent from his back, the blood flowed from the lash, and still the tyrant roared out, "Lay on, boatswain's mate!"—With one wild scream he sprang from under the lash, and bounded up the rigging with amazing rapidity. He doubled the futtock rigging like a cat, passed the topmast and top-gallant rigging with undiminished speed, and perched the unrattled royal zig-zag, and pinned himself like a bird along side of the mainmast, which streamed from the mast-head. Here he paused, looking fearfully upon the deck below. All hands came up to see him—his cries and cruel treatment had already enlisted their sympathy, and, if possible, had increased their hatred of the Captain.

The monster was smiling complacently at the success of his experiment; for he was one of those tyrants who boasted that the cat, properly applied, could make men do anything. Still he was apprehensive that the boy might destroy himself, and the circumstance he used against him at the admiralty, where he knew representations of his cruelty had already been made. The men gazed in silence, looking first at the boy and then at the Captain, who was seated near the taffail. They dared not be seen speaking to one another; it was a flagrant offence; even at night, spies passed under their hammocks to ascertain if they whispered, the officers walking the lee side of the quarter deck, occasionally casting their eyes aloft, and were as silent as the men.

Still the boy clung to the mast-head, playing with the pendant, apparently unconscious of the interest he excited below. Tired with gazing aloft, the Captain sang out through the speaking trumpet—"Down from aloft!—Down!"

The boy sprang upon the truck at a bound, and raising himself erect, waved his cap at round his head; then stretching his arms out, gave a wild, laughing scream, and threw himself forward. The Captain jumped to his feet, expecting to see the boy dashed to pieces on the deck; but when clear of the shade of the sails, he saw him sliding along the main royal stay toward the foretop gallant mast-head, and heard him laugh and clatter like a monkey, as if enjoying the sport. He reached the mast-head in safety, and then descended along the top-gallant backstay hand over-hand. The Captain looked at him, and was about to speak, but could not find words. The boy trothed at the mouth and nose; his eyes seemed starting out of his head; he roared upon the deck in convulsions, staining it with the blood which still trickled from his back. He was a maniac.—The surgeon's skill, in the course of a few weeks restored his health but never his reason.

From that time forward he was fearless. In the darkest night, in the fiercest gales, he would scamper along the deck like a dog, and bound aloft with a speed which no one on board could equal. He would run over the yards without holding, pass from mast to mast on the stays, ascend and descend by the leeches of the sails, and run up the naked studding-sailbooms. He was nimble as a cat, and had forgotten fear. Some of the light duties aloft he learned to discharge in company with them—he did as they did, but could not be trusted to do anything himself. One order he always obeyed without hesitation. At the command, "Away aloft," he was off, and never paused until he reached the mast-head. As he was harmless and rarely spoke, the Captain kept him on board, and, in the course of a year, sent him often aloft for amusement. His strength increased with his years, but his bulk and height remained nearly the same at eighteen as when he became a maniac.

His ribs, breast and back, seemed one case of bone, and his sinews and muscles made his legs and arms appear like pillared columns.—He was

fair, with light blue eyes and delicate skin; his face was oval and full, but void of expression—neither love, fear, revenge, nor pleasure, could be traced in its solid outline. His eyes stared at everything, without appearing to see, and when he spoke, there was rarely any meaning in his words. He followed the men in their various duties, like a dog following his master. Whenever he was struck or started by a boatswain's mate, he ran up the main rigging screaming at the top of his voice, and never paused until he had performed the first evolution which had made him a maniac.

As the old sailor's story runs, the ship arrived at Plymouth to be decked and refitted.—The Captain availing himself of the leisure, was going to be married, and the news was communicated by his servant to the cook, who soon circulated it on the birth-deck among the men, who cursed him and all of his kin.

His servant came on board of the hulk where the men were lodged, the evening when the captain was to be married. Crazy Joe (the name the boy was known by) met him at the gangway and asked him intelligently if the captain would be married that evening, and where. The servant gave him the information he desired, and went about his business.

That night while the captain was undressing, he was seized by the throat and dragged to the bridal-bed.

"Look, fair lady, on me," said crazy Joe, "but do not scream, or I will kill you. Look on me. I hold within my grasp a devil, who delights in cruelty—a merciless fiend who has scourged the backs of hundreds of brave men—a ruffian who has robbed me of my reason. I hold him within the grasp of death, at the very moment his black soul thought itself within the reach of bliss. Monster look upon your lady—think one moment of the heaven of earthly joy almost within your reach—then think of me, poor crazy Joe, and of the hell to which I send you! Die, wretch, die!"

When the alarm was given, the strangled body of the captain was found lying alongside of the bridal-bed; but the maniac who killed him was never recognized afterward. He belonged to Cornwall, and probably found shelter from pursuit in the mines, until the excitement passed away.

The lady stated at the time, and many years afterwards, that the attack of the maniac was so sudden and silent that she knew nothing of it until the curtains were pushed aside and she felt the pressure of the captain's body bent over the edge of the bed. Joe held his victim around the neck with his right hand, and turned him from side to side as easily as if he had been a child, while the fore-finger and thumb of the left had grasped her own throat, ready to extinguish her life if she attempted to raise an alarm.

His face was pale and death-like; his eyes stared, but were motionless; and every word he uttered seemed to issue from the very depths of his soul. The captain's looks were terrible beyond description; death left the impress of serenity upon his darkened features. How the maniac entered or left the room, she never knew; his departure was as noiseless as his entrance. So paralyzed was she with fear, that an hour elapsed before she could muster courage to call for help; but she thanked God, when the captain's cruel character became generally known ashore, that she had been rescued from his alliance.

THE PUBLIC PRINTING—A \$50,000 BOOK ORDERED TO BE PRINTED!

Mr. Gurley, of Ohio, recently made a grand flourish in the House touching the "reforms" he intended to effect in the printing department of the Government; and, no doubt, some believed him to be sincere. But what will our readers think when we tell them that, within a few days past, at the instance and on the recommendation of Mr. Gurley, chairman of the Committee on Printing, ten thousand extra copies of Gov. Stevens' report (printed by order of the Senate at the close of the last session) were ordered to be printed by the House. The cost of this book will be upwards of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, and the Government will pay twice for the composition. This will materially help the Republicans to "take care of their wounded," to use an expression borrowed from Mr. Thos. Ford, the House Printer. The members generally could not have had an idea of the immense cost of this work at the time they voted to print it, or certainly they would not have been willing to re-print so costly a book at a time when they seem incapable of talking about any thing but the enormities of the "printing phludger." We think the fact above stated will convince every honest and reflecting man that the professions of economy and reform so loudly made by the Republicans of the House is a mere scheme to cover the corruption they intend to perpetrate before the close even of the present session.

That Gov. Stevens' Report is a valuable and interesting work we have no doubt; but having already been printed for the use of the Government, its republication is a piece of the most wasteful extravagance that has ever yet characterized the public printing; and, if this system is to be adopted, you may reduce the prices of actual printing 90 per cent., and yet the expenditures in the printing department will run up to millions of dollars! The wrong is not in the printing law; it is not to be found in the prices paid for composition and press-work, but in the extravagant orders so frequently made by Congress.—Washington Convention.

A raw Jerseyman who had been gazing at a garden in Richmond, in which were several marble statues, exclaimed: "Just see what a waste! Here's no less than six scare-crows in this little ten-foot patch, and any one of them would be enough to keep the crows from a five acre lot!"

Spare ribs—unmarried females.

DENOMINATIONAL OXEN IN TEXAS.

Texas is a great State. It has not only a large, growing, mixed population—every variety of climate and soil, game and stock—but its very oxen have become denominational, if not sectarian in name, character, and spirit. In proof of this we give the following incident:

A minister travelling along the road, met a stranger driving his wagon, which was pulled by four oxen: as the minister approached, he heard the driver say, "Get up, Presbyterian!" "Get up, Campbellite!" "Haw, Baptist!" "What are you doing, Methodist?" The minister, struck with the singularity of such names being given to oxen, remarked—

"Stranger, you have strange names for your oxen, and I wish to know why they had such names given to them?"

The driver replied, "I call [that lead ox in front, Presbyterian, because he is true blue, and never fails—he believes in pulling through even the most difficult place, persevering to the end, and by his side I call Campbellite; he does every well when you let him go his own way, until he sees water, and then all the world could not keep him out of it, and there he stands as if his journey was ended. This ox, behind, is a real Baptist, for he is all the time after water, and will not eat with the others, but is constantly looking, first on one side, and then on the other, and at every thing that comes near him. The other which I call Methodist, makes a great to-do, and you would think he was pulling all creation, but he don't pull a pound."

The minister having his curiosity gratified with the explanation, rode on, wondering what he should next see and hear in Texas. This is no dream, but a fact, as we have heard it; nor are we influenced by dyspeptic feelings, in telling our readers the ecclesiastical relation of Texas oxen.—True Witness.

AN AMUSING LAW CASE.

Some years ago, in Newcastle county Delaware, an Irishman was knocked down and robbed. He accused a man of having committed the robbery; and in due time the case came to trial. The Irishman being upon the stand, was cross-examined, after having sworn positively to the guilt of the prisoner, by one of our keenest lawyers, and something like the following was the result.

"You say that the prisoner at the bar was the man who assaulted and robbed you?"

"Yes."

"Was it moonlight when the occurrence took place?"

"Divil a bit iv it."

"Not a starlight?"

"Not a whit; it was so dark that you could not have seen your hand before you."

"Was there any light shining from any house near by?"

"Divil a bit iv a house was there anywhere about."

"Well, then, if there was no moon, starlight from any house, and so dark that you couldn't see even your hand before you, how are you able to swear that the prisoner is the man? How could you see him?"

"Why, your honor, when the spalpeen struck me, the fire flew out iv me eyes so bright you might have seen to pick up a pin, you could."

The court, jury, counsel and spectators exploded with shouts at this quaint idea, and the prisoner was directly after declared not guilty.

Neighbor Wilson caught a cooper stealing some hoop-poles which he had just got ready for market. The cooper was astounded and offered farmer W. \$10 not to mention the fact; which proposition, duly backed by the money, was accepted. But the same evening, when Mr. Wilson, the cooper, and a lot of mutual neighbors were talking politics at the village grocery, the farmer turned to a friend and asked:

"Did I ever tell you, neighbor Jenks, that I had caught the cooper, here, stealing my hoop-poles?"

"You never did?"

"Well, then, said Mr. Wilson, I never will, for I promised I wouldn't."

It is unnecessary to say that on the next day, a first-rate cooper settled in a neighboring village.

To travelers—the best adhesive label you can put on luggage is to stick to it yourself.

The vowels which create the most sensation in the minds of honest men are I O U.

A teacher of penmanship, in twelve lessons, has taught a lawyer to read his own writing.

Roast beef, serenity of mind, a pretty wife and cold water baths, will make almost any man healthy, wealthy and wise."

He that thinks himself the happiest man really is so, but he who thinks himself the wisest is generally the greatest fool.

Mouth—an instrument to some people for rendering ideas audible, and to others of rendering virtuous invisible.

A fine woman, like a locomotive, draws a train after her, scatters the sparks and transports the mails.

Four things come not back: the broken word, the sped arrow, the past life, and the neglected opportunity.

Somebody says, to dream of soap, betokens a combat, in which you may expect to get lathered.

If you wish to collect together all the pretty girls in town, advertise "a lecture to young men."